MR. SPEAKER : The gentleman is not a private person. He is an officer in the Transport Department, a public officer and every hon. Member is entitled to ask for information about his appointment. It is open to the Hon. Minister to say he will not answer the question. So far as the question itself is concerned, it is admissible under the rules and therefore I have put it on the agenda. It is a matter, as I said, for the Hon. Minister not to answer the question. That is for him to decide.

Now we will take up short notice question No. 2.

2 *S.N. Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Sri Sundaresa Ayyar appointed as Mechanical Engineer in the State Transport Department with effect from 10th June 1957 is a qualified Mechanical Engineer;

(*b*) if not, the reasons for appointing him;

(*c*) whether this appointment was referred to the Public Service Commission;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one Sri Ananthakrishna Ayyar has been appointed recently as Personal Assistant to the Mechanical Engineer-*cum*-Stores Officer of the State Transport.

(*e*) his previous experience; and

(*f*) whether the post was referred to the Public Service Commission?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Sri Sundaresan holds a diploma in Automobile and High Speed Diesel Engineering issued by the British Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bombay. He possesses the prescribed experience of over 10 years in workshop organization and transport services. He has good practical experience in all branches of the Madras State Transport Department, as he has been working in that Department from its inception. He has acted twice as Mechanical Engineer previously. Prior to his joining the department he was working as Motor Vehicles Inspector and was subsequently in charge of a fleet of Government lorries under the control of the Civil Supplies Department and the Government Automobile Workshops where repairs to all Government vehicles were undertaken. He is the seniormost officer in the Madras State Transport Department in the Engineering side.

(*b*) The Government selected an officer with B.E., Degree for the post of Mechanical Engineer in the Madras State Transport Department. This officer soon after his joining the department expressed his inability to continue in the post due to domestic reasons and he was accordingly reverted to his parent department. Thereupon Government advertised the post on the scale of Rs. 750—1,200. Eleven applications were received in response to this advertisement but none of them possessed the qualifications prescribed. An attempt

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was again made to secure the services of a Public Works Department Officer who was considered to possess the qualification to hold the post but that officer was also not willing to take up this appointment. Therefore, Sri Sundaresan was appointed in view of his qualification stated, on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of the Home Secretary, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, the Director of Government Transport and Mechanical Engineer.

(c) No, Sir. The appointment is temporary. The question will arise only after the rules regarding the post are issued.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) He underwent training in the accounts department of the Automobile Products of India Limited, and has about 5 years experience in cost accounts.

(f) No, Sir. The appointment is temporary for the present. It was made on the recommendation of an official committee. The question of reference to the Public Service Commission will arise when rules are issued in respect of this post.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Then is it a fact that this officer does not suffer for want of qualifications and that he richly deserves the office in view of his varied experiences in the department?

MR. SPEAKER : It is what the Hon. Minister has stated.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Are these gazetted appointments, Sir?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir.

Government servants transferred to Kanyakumari district

* 113 Q.—SRI M. WILLIAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gazetted and Non-Gazetted Officers transferred to Kanyakumari district from other districts of the Madras State; and

(b) how many of them belong to the district cadre?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) Ninty-nine.

(b) By the term 'District Cadre' the Member presumably refers to the number of officers who have jurisdiction over the district. The number of such officers is 18.

SRI M. WILLIAM : Are the Government aware of the fact that by the transfer and promotion of non-gazetted officers from other districts, the claims of the officers in the subordinate services in the Kanyakumari district are overlooked and this has led to discontent among the service personnel there?